REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to delete the multiple dependency of the claims, thereby placing such claims in condition for examination and reducing the required PTO filing fee.

Furthermore, the above amendments have been made to have the amendments presented during the international phase under Article 19 entered at this point.

Respectfully submitted,

Shoji ITO et al.

Nils E. Pedersen

Registration No. 33,145

Attorney for Applicants

NEP/krg Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 December 20, 2005